October Newsletter

**5th Grade Chit-Chat**

**Reading**: Students have been doing great reading in class. They read independently, write their great thinking on post-it notes, and complete summary/responses for each book read. I have been focusing my lessons on characterization. We have gone over things such as character traits, character point-of-view, character motivation and character change. I have also been conferencing with students in order to help them improve as readers. In November I will continue to focus my lessons on characterization. I will also start working with strategy groups in class, where I will work with small groups of students based on their needs.

For our read aloud we are still reading Maniac Magee, which is by Jerry Spinelli. The students are fascinated by the main character's journey to find his place in a town controlled by segregation.

**Writing**: The students worked hard on their first writing piece, which was a personal narrative. While writing students focused on using great leads, having fully developed paragraphs with transitions and details. During parent conferences I will provide you with your child’s writing. Students are now working on their second writing piece, which focuses on having a good plot. Students are also working on having a fully developed character by using dialogue and details.

***Upcoming Events in October to look out for…***

*Parent conferences are Wednesday and Thursday of next week (November 9th and the 10th). A paper went home with your scheduled appointment.*

*Students do not have school that Thursday due to conferences, as well as Friday, November 11th.*

*Thanksgiving Break:*

*November 24th-28th*



***Odds and Ends…***

Students should be practicing multiplication facts at home. It is very important that they master all of their facts in order to be successful in math.

During conferences I will provide you with your child’s PSSA scores from 4th grade, as well as his/her 1st marking period report card. We will discuss your child’s progress in 5th grade, focusing especially on reading, writing, and math.

**Help your child with**

**their reading…**

**Read To Them**

The most important thing you can do for your child is to read to him/her. Read things that your child is interested in as well as for pure enjoyment! Stop and talk with your child about what you have just read. Did you think something was

funny? Did you liked the way the author said something? Have a book discussion with your child and talk about any part of the book!

Point out different aspects of the text like: see how the pictures help tell the story, did you hear all those

rhyming words, what do you think will happen next, look at all the lines that repeat, see how long that word

is, we already know a lot about this story because of something else we've read or heard about, etc.

Remember, as a significant adult in your child’s life, your uses of reading for real purposes, including enjoyment and information, are the most powerful demonstrations you can give. Just as your child learned about speaking from your demonstrations, she will learn about reading through your modeling of it!

Have fun reading together!!!

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**5th Grade Chit-Chat**

**Continued…**

**Math**: Students have been very busy math students! They finished their unit on factors and multiples. This focused on prime and composite numbers, factorization, and exponents. Students also finished their unit on order of operations. Currently students are focusing on solving word problems based on model drawing. After that they will focus on fractions. I encourage students to write good notes in class and encourage them to look over their notes nightly when needed.

**Science-** In science we have been working on a landforms unit. This month we focused on the difference between maps and models, how water creates erosions, and how water flow and slope affect the amount of erosion. We currently have been focusing on elevation and topographic maps.

**Social Studies**- For the second half of the marking period we have been focusing on science. We will start social studies again during the second marking period.